

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrode-pad storage cartridge, comprising:
  - a housing having an interior and removably attachable to a defibrillator;
  - an electrode pad disposed within the interior; and
  - a power source disposed in the interior and operable to provide power to the defibrillator when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.
2. The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a first connector attached to the housing and operable to electrically couple the electrode pads to the defibrillator; and
  - a second connector attached to the housing and operable to electrically couple the power source to the defibrillator.
3. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a battery.
4. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises an alkaline battery.
5. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a lithium ion battery.
6. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises an alkaline battery and a lithium ion battery.
7. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a fuel cell.
8. The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising:
  - wherein the power source comprises a fuel cell; and
  - a fuel reservoir coupled to the fuel cell.
9. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein:
  - the interior has first and second portions;
  - the electrode pad is disposed in the first portion; and
  - the power source is disposed in the second portion.
10. The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source is operable to provide power to charge a battery disposed in the defibrillator.

1           11.    The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the power source is operable to  
2 provide power to operate the defibrillator.

1           12.    The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the housing is formed from a rigid  
2 material.

1           13.    A defibrillator system, comprising:

2           a defibrillator; and

3           a cartridge, comprising,

4                 a cartridge housing having an interior and removably attachable to the  
5 defibrillator,

6                 an electrode pad disposed within the interior of the housing, and

7                 a power source disposed within the interior of the housing and operable  
8 to provide power to the defibrillator when the housing is attached to the  
9 defibrillator.

1           14.    The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises  
2 an automated or semi automated external defibrillator.

1           15.    The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises a  
2 battery and is operable to recharge the battery with power provided by the power  
3 source.

1           16.    The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein the defibrillator comprises a  
2 battery and is operable to maintain a predetermined charge on the battery using the  
3 power provided by the power source.

1           17.    The defibrillator system of claim 13 wherein:

2           the defibrillator comprises circuitry; and

3           the power source is operable to power the circuitry.

1           18.    A defibrillator, comprising:

2           circuitry;

3           a first receptacle operable to receive a first battery for providing power to the  
4 circuitry; and

5           a second receptacle operable to receive a self-contained power source for  
6 charging the first battery.

1        19.    The defibrillator of claim 18, further comprising:  
2        a casing; and  
3        wherein the first receptacle comprises a compartment disposed within the  
4 casing.

1        20.    The defibrillator of claim 18, further comprising:  
2        a casing;  
3        wherein the second receptacle comprises a compartment disposed within the  
4 casing.

1        21.    The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source  
2 comprises a battery.

1        22.    The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source  
2 comprises a fuel cell.

1        23.    The defibrillator of claim 18 wherein the self-contained power source  
2 comprises:

3        a fuel cell; and  
4        a fuel reservoir coupled to the fuel cell.

1        24.    A defibrillator system, comprising:  
2        a defibrillator for generating a defibrillation shock; and  
3        one and only one field-replaceable component that is attachable to the  
4 defibrillator.

1        25.    The defibrillator system of claim 24 wherein the field-replaceable  
2 component comprises an electrode-pad storage cartridge including:  
3        a housing having an interior and removably attachable to the defibrillator,  
4        an electrode pad disposed within the interior, and  
5        a power source disposed in the interior and operable to provide power to the  
6 defibrillator when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.

1        26.    The defibrillator system of claim 24 wherein:  
2        the defibrillator comprises a battery operable to power the defibrillator; and  
3        the field-replaceable component comprises an electrode-pad storage cartridge  
4 including,

5 a housing having an interior and removably attachable to the  
6 defibrillator,  
7 an electrode pad disposed within the interior, and  
8 a power source disposed in the interior and operable to charge the  
9 battery when the housing is attached to the defibrillator.

1 27. A defibrillator, comprising:  
2 circuitry; and  
3 a fuel cell for providing power to the circuitry.

1 28. The defibrillator of claim 27, further comprising a reservoir operable to  
2 store fuel for the fuel cell.

1 29. A method, comprising:  
2 connecting a self-contained power source to a defibrillator having a battery;  
3 and  
4 charging the battery with the power source.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of connecting comprises  
2 attaching a cartridge to the defibrillator, the cartridge having the power source and an  
3 electrode pad.

1 31. The method of claim 29, further comprising:  
2 monitoring the power source; and  
3 generating an alarm when the power source has a charge level that is lower  
4 than a predetermined level.

1 32. The method of claim 29, further comprising:  
2 monitoring the battery; and  
3 generating an alarm when the battery has a charge level that is lower than a  
4 predetermined level.

1 33. A method, comprising:  
2 inserting a cartridge into a defibrillator, the cartridge having a power source  
3 and an electrode pad; and  
4 powering the defibrillator with the power source.

1           34.    The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises charging a battery  
2 with the power source, the battery disposed within the defibrillator.

1           35.    The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises powering a circuit  
2 with the power source, the circuit disposed within the defibrillator.

1           36.    The method of claim 33 wherein powering comprises powering a circuit  
2 with the power source and a battery, the circuit and battery disposed within the  
3 defibrillator.

1           37.    The method of claim 33, further comprising:  
2 monitoring a charge level of the power source; and  
3 replacing the cartridge when the charge level is below a predetermined level.

1           38.    The method of claim 33, further comprising:  
2 monitoring a charge level of a battery disposed within the defibrillator;  
3 wherein powering the defibrillator comprises charging the battery with the  
4 power source; and  
5 replacing the cartridge when the charge level is below a predetermined level.